

JAPAN CHRISTIAN ACTIVITY NEWS

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Published by the Commission on Public Relations

of the National Christian Council of Japan

CABLE CODE : JAPACONCIL, ADDRESS : CHRISTIAN CENTER, 2, 4 - CHOME GINZA, TOKYO, JAPAN

Subscription Rates : Japan ¥700; Foreign (Sea mail) \$2.00; (Air mail) \$3.50.

No. 93

November 15, 1956

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JUVENILE INSTITUTION DIRECTORS MEET

The Bott Memorial Center is to be host to the annual conference of directors of forty-five Christian social welfare institutions for juveniles on November 18-20. Dr. Masatoku Doi, advisor to the Family Affairs Bureau of the Supreme Court will address the conference, Director Seiji Giga will report on his recent trip to Europe and America and Dr. Mills, director of the Christian Children's Fund, will be present.

BIBLE STUDY IN CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS IN DANGER

The Education Ministry's plan to increase required courses in high schools (9-12 grades) is causing considerable concern in Christian education circles. The Education Association of Christian Schools would like to have the number of required subjects kept to a minimum because the larger the number of required hours the less attention the students can give to Bible study and related subjects. Thus, inspite of the newly acquired freedom, Bible study will tend to be crowded out. To prevent this the Association is presenting counter proposals to the Ministry.

WORLD SS CONVENTION PREPARATIONS

Although the World Sunday School Convention is still twenty months away, plans for accommodating the expected twenty-five hundred delegates are being laid in considerable detail. Hotels are being reserved for guests through the Japan Hotel Association and transportation problems are being worked out with local authorities including the Japan Travel Bureau. The 14th World Sunday School Convention will be the largest ever held in Tokyo and with housing and transportation facilities overtaxed by the normal demands of this growing city, it will be extremely difficult to arrange matters so that life in the downtown area will not be completely disrupted by the foreign guests and some three thousand or more Japanese who will come to Tokyo for the convention.

CONFERENCE ON YOUTH PROBLEM

The Home New Life Movement Commission of the National Christian Council held a National Conference at the Kofukaku in Ito, November 7-8, to discuss "Youth Problems and the Churches' Responsibilities." More than sixty persons attended, including Mr. Koji Horie, chairman of the Education Department of the Japan Episcopal Church, Mr. Toyotake Kubota, Chairman of the Youth Evangelism Committee of the United Church of Christ in Japan, and Mr. Kozen Sho, head of the Education Department of the Korean Christian Church in Japan.

Following the worship service conducted by Dr. Michio Kozaki, Judge Hiroshi Ando of the Tokyo Domestic Court spoke on "Present day Youth Problems," after which the discussion was led by the Reverend Shitaro Imai, Principal of the Katei Gakko, a home school for boys, and Miss Tamiko Yamamuro of the Salvation Army. On the second day the Reverend Tokuzo Hiraga, Director of the Institute on the Mission of the United Church, addressed the conference on "The Responsibility of the Churches and Youth Problems in the Modern World."

DR. FREDERICK WISLOFF IN JAPAN

Dr. Frederick Wisloff, President of the Norwegian Home Missions arrived at Haneda airport on October 30 for a three-months visit to this country. A reception was held in his honor the following day at the Ginza Christian Center. The same day he spoke at a Japan Evangelical Lutheran Memorial Service at the Tokyo YWCA.

BIBLE SALES MOUNT

The Japan Bible Society has announced that 1,831,000 copies of the Bible, including portions, were sold during the fiscal year ending October 31, 1956. This is well over the Society's goal of 1.8 millions, but under the previous year's total of 1,872,000. However, that total included 350,000 for free distribution, so that this year's actual sales are well over sales for the previous years.

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EBISAWA LEAVES FOR BRAZIL

Mr. and Mrs. Yoshimichi Ebisawa departed from Yokohama on November 4, for Brazil where he will become a secretary in the YMCA at San Paulo. Mr. Ebisawa is the third son of the Rev. Akira Ebisawa and a graduate of Oberlin College and Doshisha Theological seminary.

BILLY GRAHAM TO BE INVITED AGAIN

In preparation for the 1959 centennial program a special committee has been formed by representatives of the National Christian Council (Dr. Michio Kozaki), The Japan Baptist Convention (Dr. E. B. Dozier), The Church of God (The Reverend Shigeyoshi Taniguchi), and The Japan Holiness Church (The Reverend Teiji Yamazaki). This committee will be formally organized early in December and will immediately arrange to extend an invitation to Dr. Billy Graham to visit Japan in 1959 for a period of from five to eight weeks. It is hoped that Dr. Graham can hold meetings throughout Japan.

INTERNATIONAL RECEPTION AT CHRISTIAN CENTER

A recent reception for foreign Christian leaders in Japan was unusually international in character. Among those honored on the occasion were the Reverend Frederick Wisloff, President of the Norwegian Evangelical Mission, Miss Dan Miya Chi, General Secretary of the Rangoon YWCA and concurrently secretary of the New Life Movement of the National Christian Council of Burma, who has been attending the Asia Women's Conference, Miss Margaret Shannon, General Secretary of the Women's Council of the Presbyterian Church, USA, and five others from the USA, Canada, India and Alaska.

SURVEY OF CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

A survey recently conducted by the Education Association of Christian Schools, reveals that teachers unions have been organized under the Labor Standards Law in nineteen of the seventy-seven affiliated schools. Other interesting items of information supplied by sixty-six of the schools was as follows:

- 1) Is there a salary system for the faculty? Yes-30; No-33; No reply 3.
- 2) Are there pensions? Yes-60; No-5; No reply 1.
- 3) Is there an age limit for the faculty? Yes-31; No-35.
(Age limit: 60 years-12; 65 years-11; 70 years-1).
- 4) Are there financial relations with mission boards? Yes-48; No-16.
Two have separate foundations.
- 5) Have school bonds been issued? Yes-18; No-45; Contemplated-3.
- 6) Are teachers unions advisable? Yes-16; No-33; No reply 17.
- 7) What is the attitude toward the 6-3-3-4 educational system? Approve-34, revision needed-20, Being studied 2.

WESTMINSTER CHOIR

The Westminster Choir, under the leadership of Dr. John Finley Williamson, is now in Japan on an extended tour sponsored by the Japan Broadcasting Company and the International Cultural Exchange Association. On November 21, a special demonstration for choir directors will be given by Dr. Williamson at the Tokyo Union Church. Sixty choir directors from throughout Japan are expected to attend. The Tokyo Union Church and Chuo Church Choirs as well as the Westminster Choir will render special numbers.

TOKYO CITY YMCA LEADERS CONFERENCE

About eighty youth leaders attended a national conference at Tozanso, Gotemba under the auspices of the Tokyo City YMCA early this month to discuss a "Three-year-Advance" program for City Y's.

1957 NATIONAL SS CONVENTION

The directors of the Church School Department of the NCC have decided to invite Dr. E. Homrighausen, Dean of Princeton Theological Seminary, to attend the 1957 National Sunday School Convention which is to be held at Miyagi Girls' School in Sendai.

IN BRIEF

The Vice Chairman of the Church World Service, Mr. G. P. Warfield, departed for Okinawa on November 4 after an extended visit to Korea and a brief investigation of Church World Service facilities in the Tokyo area.

The 79th Anniversary of Meiji Gakuin founding was observed on November 1.

Dr. and Mrs. Virgil Sly recently arrived from Australia and spent ten days visiting the churches. Dr. Sly is chairman of the Board of Foreign Missions of the Disciples Church, USA. Mrs. Sly is on the executive board of Church World Service. They left Japan on November 5th.

The first Christmas tree has appeared in a Ginza store selling Christmas cards!

